

Newsletter August 2016

In our July 2016 Newsletter we provided a brief introduction to Eschatology – a study of the end times encompassing the last days of mortal men on earth. In it, we also provided a broad outline of future events, all of which have been predestined by God to come to pass within that period. Beginning with this newsletter, we shall engage in a series of discussions in which we shall analyze each of those previously referenced events in greater detail. In this first discussion, we shall focus our attention upon the depraved fallen nature of mankind, which will be allowed to run unrestrained as we approach the last days. The Apostle Paul warned of this coming time in his last epistle to Timothy just prior to his death by Roman executioners: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. “(2Ti.3:1). The soon fulfillment of this prophecy can already be evidenced all about us both near and far through daily news reports wherein we observe acts of murderous violence stemming from an insane hatred that has permeated mankind on a global scale.

As we have previously stated throughout this work, all men and women are depraved from birth as a consequence of Adam's sin that perpetuated itself throughout all of Adam's race (cf. *CRC* Book I, page 188; Newsletter June 2014). The Prophet Jeremiah stated, “[Man's] heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it” (Je. 17:9). Jesus knew full well the deceitfulness of the human heart when He said, “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, [and] blasphemies...” (Mt.15:19). Since the fall, man is not ruled by the perfect guidance and authority of their Creator, Who alone can determine what is truly good and what is evil, but by his own conscience in conformity to a faulty sense of what is right and what is wrong (cf. Ge. 2:17).

The nagging human conscience originated from Adam's lingering guilt after his fall, and it is not a reliable guide. The conscience is highly subject to influence from many experiences in life that are received into the soul through sensory perceptions of the eye and the ear. Moreover, the dictates of the human conscience are often ignored, and it can be completely silenced by repeated sins that are viewed as beneficial by a practicing sinner. Parents, both Christian and non-Christian alike, have in the past taught their children to behave responsibly within the family unit to maintain peace and order within the home. Christian parents have imbued them with absolute godly standards attained from holy Scripture, while non-Christian parents have pervaded them with arbitrary standards that are only relative to circumstances. When those children became adults, they carried the standards of their earlier upbringing with them. The additional restraint of human government under-girded by the influence of responsible men and women working together through both religious and political institutions to establish ethical boundaries have mostly held rampant moral degeneration of society at bay in the past.

The repeated observance of violent acts taking place as real events of criminal activity and acts of war, as well as those experienced vicariously through various forms of electronic media, can dull the moral senses until the human conscience becomes overwhelmed and cauterized. Observance of evil is reinforced by hateful rhetoric often attended by a background drumbeat of hostility promoted by various forms of decadent contemporary music. Consequently, the collective conscience becomes hardened to evil to the extent that human depravity has become increasingly more evident in our times. This is apparent through a growing lawlessness evidenced by surging crime rates as well as atrocious acts of mayhem and mass murder committed on a heretofore unimaginable scale by various hate groups. While much of today's anger, hatred, and violence stems from a holy-war launched by Muslims in support of the radical nature of Islamic core beliefs (cf. Newsletter January 2016), violence and hatred is symptomatic of an increasing underlying release of human depravity present in all of fallen mankind. As this evil is permitted to run unrestrained in the last days, a dense spiritual darkness will grow until it completely obscures the truth regarding mankind's fallen nature and his desperate need for divine redemption. Having rejected this truth, mankind will become fully saturated with Satan's ancient lie through which man arrogantly attempts to elevate himself to a false all-knowing god-like state (cf. Ge. 3:5).

As we briefly stated in last month's newsletter, this dangerous time, of which the Apostle Paul spoke, will begin when the Holy Spirit can no longer effectively strive with an increasingly arrogant depraved mankind that fiercely rejects the wondrous redemption offered in Jesus Christ at every turn. This total rejection of the Gospel by fallen men will come about in accordance with God's divine will to bring this current age to a close, and to prepare the way for the return of Jesus Christ to judge the corrupt inhabitants of his earth. This perilous period will be characterized by unrestrained human depravity unleashed through personal and societal relationships that

will erode and ultimately destroy the foundations of human families. This erosion is already being realized by a rapid increase in unscriptural divorce and through open rebellion against biblical marriage altogether in favor of serial fornication that has no sanctity or permanence in God's will. Due to the ephemeral nature of these relationships, children derived from these illicit unions are commonly reared without masculine headship and authority. The mother's role, which is to love and nurture their children, cannot make up for this loss; mothers soon find that they completely lose control over their children due to the lack of necessary male discipline.

Within some families, wickedness greatly abounds causing great stress on natural relationships to the extent that each member views themselves as unloved and fully estranged from other family members. Selfish resentment resulting from this alienation spills over into society at large. Human families based upon the sanctified marriage of one man to one woman in a loving relationship are the fundamental building blocks of an orderly society. Once biblical marriage is totally rejected in the future, the human family will crumble, and human depravity will spread outward to overwhelm both governmental and religious institutions.

The Apostle Paul went on to describe the nature of reprobate mankind living in this future perilous age in Second Timothy 3, verses 2 through 9: "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;" (2Ti.3:2-4). In those days, men and women will only love themselves as the ultimate being about which all else revolves (cf. 2Ti.3:2). Self-love is a basic underlying tenet of humanism that exalts man over God, and it is inherent in the depraved nature of mankind. There are already many going about teaching that we should look into the mirror each morning and say to our image, "I love you." All of this self-love is supposed to be a matter of building up personal self-esteem for the purpose of gaining effectiveness in both social and business spheres of activity. The ultimate effect, however, is to glorify man's fallen nature such that men and women will actually worship themselves as a supreme divine being.

Those born in the last days will be disobedient to their parents, and parents who were reared having the same inclination will be reluctant to enforce proper discipline upon their children. Thus, they will fail to instill in their children the personal restraints necessary for them to become responsible adults. Love will grow cold as selfishness and gross immorality abounds. Men and women will soon lose all their natural affection toward others – even toward members of their own family. Love of those that should be held dearest will be freely sacrificed to self-love. All sense of natural affection will flee from them as men and women become intent upon fully satisfying their own personal desires. We already find this incredible loss of natural affection taking place in the surgical abortion of children in the wombs of their mothers, as well as in the willful abandonment of young children by their parents to subsist as best they can on city streets – or surrendered to government agencies to rear in their place.

Lacking loving discipline as children, men and women in the last days will be disobedient to all authority (cf. 2Ti.3:2), which they view as specifically designed to deny them their deserved place in the world. Men will seek after extreme pleasures to satiate their desires like never before. Holding themselves in high esteem, they will freely engage in pleasures that bring them the greatest self-gratification (cf. 2Ti.3:4). Men will become extremely lustful, engaging in terrifying and immoral acts to satisfy their own lusts in the name of a self-serving religion of personal wantonness. The simple pleasures of the presence of loved ones through a committed marriage relationship will be denied them because of their fool-hardy surrender to illicit sex. The pleasures they seek will be the exotic and the immoral as pleasure is sought at all costs and is placed above all that should rightly be held dear. Pornography, which is already widely available in print and over the internet, will enslave increasingly more men through various computerized enhancements such as "virtual reality." The minds of men who engage in this form of graphic voyeurism soon become hopelessly addicted to these mental images much as one can become addicted to chemical drugs. Eventually, reality cannot be separated from this graphical stimulation leading enslaved men to engage in all manner of physical sexual abuse and evil-doing in the real world. Men will seduce (both mentally and physically) foolish women who will not have the moral wisdom to resist their advances (cf. 2Ti.3:6). "...Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived (cf. 2Ti.3:13).

Lovers of self must amass plenty of money with which to indulge their desires. Nothing must stand in their way, and nothing is too high a price to pay. The sin of covetousness is what is behind the growing personal debt

of individuals who abuse credit and credit cards. These also repeatedly borrow money from family and friends with no intention of ever repaying them. In the extreme, many turn to outright theft and robbery, while the more cunning of their lot steal through elaborate confidence schemes. Such debased minds are easily given over to compulsive gambling in the futile hope of winning sudden unearned wealth. Dissatisfaction with their financial failures or debased social state will give men and women over to consuming various mind-altering drugs to dull their senses to the reality of their situation. While in the past the most common of these drugs was alcoholic beverages, many today also turn to far more dangerous drugs. Physical addiction to these drugs so enslave the human mind that men and women will do anything to satisfy their compulsion for more. Many of these enslaved are enlisted as “drug pushers,” who sell illicit drugs to others, including children, to support their own terrible habit.

Men in the last days will be profane without any personal integrity whatsoever. Their speech will be vile as they habitually speak of base things that should not even be brought to mind and outwardly blaspheme the God of love. Already we find men and some women whose everyday speech is littered with vile curse words to the extent that they can barely be understood; the sewer of their minds spill out through the conduit of their mouths. If a man of true integrity could be found in that day, he would be despised by other men of the world (cf. 2Ti.3:3); personal honor will be a thing banished to the relics of a long-past age. Men will become highly conceited. They will be heady — very rash and fool-hardy. They will be impetuous in their actions; they will not think things through before they decide and act. They will be very high-minded — arrogant about their own rash decisions — and they will be completely unwilling to consider the opinions or advice of others (cf. 2Ti.3:4).

Prideful men will boast of great things that they have done and plan to do in an attempt to gain the admiration of others (cf. 2Ti.3:2). This will manifest itself in their manner of dress, the food they eat, the automobiles that they drive, and the homes in which they live. In that day, men will become filled with false pride as the license of the individual to do as he pleases has been raised up and put on a pedestal. Pride has always been present in man’s self-centered nature. In that day, however, we find that men will no longer consider the well being of the greater society of which they are a part, nor will there be any concern for the physical welfare of others; all thought will be centered fully upon themselves. Although man’s pride in his self-worth will be falsely placed, he will continue to elevate self in his own mind as he seeks to force his boastful opinions over others. Men and women in that day will lie habitually. We already see this in many politicians running for public office who lie profusely — even after their lies are exposed and become openly transparent to all. Men and women in that day cannot be trusted to keep their word. They will be truce breakers who on the surface make peace with others, while underneath they still harbor intense animosity awaiting an opportunity to spring forth. They will be irreconcilable and impossible to befriend. They will not hesitate to make agreements that they never intend to keep, and they will break them with out a qualm when it serves their purpose to do so. They will take others to court over trivial matters to satisfy their own sense of pride and to seek financial gain. They will think nothing of giving false testimony in order to ruin the reputations of others or even to betray them to death. These men will be ungrateful (cf. 2Ti.3:2). To give thanks is to acknowledge a benefactor other than oneself — a sign of weakness — it would be to humble oneself in the presence of a kindness that was undeserved. They will not thank their associates or families for any act of kindness shown to them. What they receive from others will only be seen as that which is entitled to them by the mere fact of their “great existence.” Over time, they have extracted all things from others by the force of their own will, and their cleverness has served them well. Like wild animals, they will become fierce; violent in their actions; destructive in their ways (cf. 2Ti.3:3).

Those who do not agree with them cannot serve their pride and will be hated as obstructionists; if they get in the way, they must be kicked aside or trampled underfoot. Striving, achievement, ruthlessness, and raw power are viewed as the important attributes to attain by men of that day. Honest people are worth nothing to them, but are to be taken advantage of in the upward climb toward their self-aggrandizement. In that day, citizens will think nothing of their country or their homeland. All national interests will become sacrificed to self-interest. Therefore, there will be many traitors to their countries in that day (cf. 2Ti.3:4). The secrets of one nation will be easily passed along to another if it is considered expedient for them to do so through overt and covert means. Moreover, those evil men will also betray their nearest friends and other members of their households just as easily.

Human governments were ordained by God to act as a restraint against overt evil, and for that reason they should be subject to our obedience and deserving of our honor (cf. Ro.13:1-7). Nevertheless, today's governments are increasingly being made up of depraved men and women who have no sense of God's divine purpose for government. Lacking a cure for society's underlying depravity these corrupt leaders enact a multitude of man-made laws and regulations to control the symptoms. Although they diligently seek after knowledge of all things in that day, they shall not discover the Truth, which is hidden from reprobate minds (cf. 2Ti.3:7). Leaders will seek after spiritual wisdom to gain control of the ensuing chaos, but in their blind ignorance they will not seek out the council of God for a true solution to mankind's problems. Thinking themselves wise, they will become fools (cf. Ro.1:22). The result of their search for a solution to mankind's problems will ultimately lead them to adopt the doctrines of demons. The satanic delusion of the times will become so great that they will believe they are actually accomplishing miraculous feats through their corrupt activities (cf. Mt.7:23). "Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith" (2Ti.3:8; cf. Ex.7:10-12). World leaders have no answer to the violence that results from mankind's rampant depravity, because they refuse to recognize sin as being any more than a false archaic notion that has no valid meaning or implication for today's difficulties in an age of advanced rational thinking.

As a consequence of this satanic darkness enveloping the minds of their leaders, governments already dabble in various immoral social experiments in hopes of curbing a violent uprising that they sense is inevitably coming if nothing is done to thwart it. They corrupt their divine purpose as they exalt that which is evil and simultaneously promote immoral sinful practices in an attempt to pacify the ungodly. In turn, these ungodly men and women seek positions of power in order to manipulate government to incorporate their perverse standards. This is already evident in the enactment of various libertine laws and regulations promoting homosexual activities including the legal establishment of so-called same-sex "marriages." Not only is evil being tolerated, it is being encouraged by governments as being good, while that which is truly good is viewed as an evil intolerance of the supposed inherent rights of a degenerate population to live exactly as they please (cf. Is. 5:20). In the name of tolerance, legal justice is being subverted such that the innocent are persecuted while the guilty are set free.

The world's citizenry will one day awaken to realize that those in authority have no solution to the world's problems; it has all been smoke and mirrors to maintain their personal position and power. As Jannes and Jambres, "they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was" (2Ti.3:9). An inevitable railing against governmental intrusion and the curtailing of personal freedoms to no real purpose will one day bring about the collapse of democratic governments into strictly controlled socialist states.

Globalism is already a wide-spread philosophy among many of today's social elite who advocate a world-wide government as a solution to today's growing geopolitical unrest. To facilitate this movement, globalists have led governments to become hopelessly embroiled in esoteric matters over which they have no power. The primary issue well suited for that purpose is the irrational theory of "climate control." Governments are already enacting highly restrictive environmental regulations to curtail a supposed threat to the environment allegedly caused by necessary energy production and use. Inasmuch as it is reasoned that no single nation could ever hope to control global climate, the world's political elite advocate an expansion of climate authority through rigid international regulations. These laws will inevitably bring more advanced nations, which are highly dependent upon energy, into a state of economic collapse – thus rendering them ripe for assimilation into a global government.

In this movement toward the formation of a global government, national border laws are no longer being enforced under the pretense of human compassion. National borders have already become so porous that they can no longer curtail the entry of criminals, enemies, drugs, and violence. As the time approaches to form a one-world government, leaders also consider it necessary to totally disarm national citizens so that they will be unable to resist the assimilation of their nations into the greater global entity. However, this unwarranted curtailing of individual freedoms will one day erupt into open rebellion, which will bring about the collapse of human civilization into a chaotic state of global anarchy. Only a powerful global dictator having supernatural resources at his disposal could force that chaotic world into submission. The Bible predicts the emergence of just such a world dictator in the last days who will come forth to establish and enforce a tenuous peace. Scripture has given that future dictator the name "antichrist" – about whom, we plan to speak more in upcoming newsletters.